

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 28251 252345Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 USPS-01 /047 W

----- 108440

R 252336Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4594

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 28251

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LABOR SCENE

1. SUMMARY. GISCARD IS ADDRESSING THE NATION 26 NOVEMBER ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. LABOR SCENE IS COOLER THAN LAST FEW WEEKS BUT DOMINATED BY FEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT. GOF IS MAKING EFFORT CREATE A CLIMATE AND FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS. PTT STRIKE ENDING IN PROVINCES BUT CONTINUING IN SORTING OFFICES IN PARIS.
END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 28251 252345Z

2. ON EVE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD'S RADIO-TV ADDRESS ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, LABOR SCENE AND OUTLOOK OF PRINCIPAL ACTORS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

A. FEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED TO EXTENT OF REPLACING INFLATION AS NUMBER ONE PREOCCUPATION OF FRENCH PEOPLE. STATISTICAL EVIDENCE OF THIS IS SOFRES POLL PUBLISHED IN FIGARO OF 25 NOVEMBER SHOWING THAT 77 PERCENT OF THOSE ASKED BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION WILL GET WORSE. PUBLICATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SHOWING A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED FROM END OF SEPTEMBER TO END OF OCTOBER PRODUCED EXPECTED CHILLING EFFECT.

B. HIGH TEMPERATURE WHICH RAN THROUGH PUBLIC AND NATIONALIZED SECTORS FELL CONSIDERABLY WITH GOF OFFER TO BEGIN 1975 WAGE NEGOTIATIONS ON 13 DECEMBER. HOWEVER THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT SINCE GOF CANNOT AFFORD TO FALL BELOW EXPECTATIONS OF MODERATE UNIONS (FO, FEN, CFTC AND CGC) WHICH PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS COUNTERWEIGHTS AGAINST "REVOLUTIONARY" CGT AND CFDT.

C. HAVING MATCHED THE CGT-CFDT CHALLENGE WITH LOW-KEY FIRMNESS, GOF IS NOW USING SAME LOW-KEY APPROACH TO CREATE A CLIMATE AND FRAMEWORK OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL KEEP THE "SOCIAL PARTNERS" TALKING UNTIL REASONABLE COMPROMISES ARE STRUCK. GOF BELIEVES (AND MOST OBSERVERS AGREE) THAT OUTCOME OF LAST ROUND OF STRIKES, WHICH SPELLED A SETBACK OF UNIONS BUT NOT A PSYCHOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL VICTORY FOR GOVERNMENT, HAS IMMUNIZED FRANCE FOR THE SHORT RUN AGAINST UNION-INSPIRED LABOR UNREST. ACCORDINGLY, GOF IS SEEKING TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE TO INDUCE A CLIMATE OF RESTRAINT DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTHS AHEAD.

D. PTT STRIKE IS WITHERING AWAY IN THE PROVINCES BUT CONTINUING STRONG IN SORTING OFFICES IN PARIS, TO THE EMBARRASSMENT OF ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY CGT-CFDT AND FO--EXCEPT FOR STRIKERS THEMSELVES, WHO CLING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 28251 252345Z

ILLUSION THAT THEIR INTRANSIGENCE IS MAKING REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY. PTT IS HOPING TO ESTABLISH A PARALLEL SORTING SERVICE TO HANDLE MAIL POSTED IN, OR TRANSITING THROUGH, PARIS. ACCUMULATED MAIL IS BEING DISTRIBUTED, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN DELIVERY WILL BE DECLARED TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, SPEECHES, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS28251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740342-0315
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741115/aaaaalzs.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH LABOR SCENE
TAGS: ELAB, FR, PTT, (GISCARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005